



# Guardian Mentor Program

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Please let me take this opportunity to introduce the Wisconsin Guardian Mentor Program, which seeks to provide information, assistance and support to guardians of people with developmental disabilities living at State Centers.

The Guardian Mentor Program is intended to assist guardians, who may be facing the prospect of being asked to consent to, or participate in, planning aimed at exploring the possibilities of relocating an individual to a community living situation. If you may be considering this, we offer assistance in the following ways:

1. Guardian Mentors are guardians who have experience in being a guardian for someone who has lived at a State Center, ICF-MR, or who is currently living in the community.
2. We can be a source of independent, impartial assistance and information to guardians, and help them deal with proposed changes in their individuals residential living situation.
3. We can assist guardians and help them prepare to be actively involved in the transition planning process, and to help them explore community living options when the time is appropriate. We can also accompany guardians to transition planning meetings if they want this support.
3. We offer information on changing state policies, Watts reviews, the transition planning process, and a guardian's legal rights and responsibilities in advocating for their ward. We can also answer guardians' questions about community service options, such as advocacy, that the guardian can become involved with.

Guardian Mentors function in a neutral role and do not make decisions for the guardian, act as the guardian, or act as an extension of any state or county organization. Guardian Mentors only provide support for the guardian during the decision-making process centered around community living.

Please contact us if you have questions, or if you would like to discuss how the program could be used in your county. I can be personally reached at 262-694-3588, or via email at [rich-judy@ameritech.net](mailto:rich-judy@ameritech.net). Guardian Mentors can also be reached through the program toll free number 1-800-334-0095, or by email at [guardianmentors@juno.com](mailto:guardianmentors@juno.com).

Please review the informational documents on this web page, such as a copy of our brochure, that will give you more of an overview of the program. In addition, other helpful documents are available to guardians upon request, such as: "A Guardians Guidebook to Residential Services".

Thanks for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Willoughby".

Richard Willoughby  
Wisconsin Guardian Mentor Program